

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 HEW-06 SWF-01 SCSE-00

SCA-01 /060 W

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O 310018Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6925

UNCLAS USUN 4577

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, UNDRO

SUBJ: 29TH GA: SECOND COMMITTEE - ITEM 60 (A), DISASTER

RELIEF

1. AFTER CONSULTATION THIS AFTERNOON WITH DELEGATIONS FROM DENMARK, TURKEY, CANADA, UK, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, IRAN, GRENADA, PERU AND PAKISTAN LANGUAGE ON US SPONSORED DRAFT RESOLUTION NOW READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DRAFT RESOLUTION

STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR (ITEM 60A)

RECALLING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2816 (XXVI) OF 14 DECEMBER 1971, CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR AND ESTABLISHING ITS PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF COORDINATING DISASTER RELIEF, ESPECIALLY THROUGH ITS ROLE AS AN INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE, AND OF ASSISTING IN DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS,

FURTHER RECALLING ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1891 (LVII) OF 31 JULY 1974, WHICH REQUESTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO
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INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE

DISASTER PREVENTION, PRE-DISASTER PLANNING AND COORDINATING ROLES OF UNDRO AND TO SUBMIT HIS FINDINGS TO THE ECONOC AT ITS 59TH SESSION; AND WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONSIDER THE PROPOSALS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF RESOURCES,

TAKING NOTE WITH APPRECIATION THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL (A/9637) ON ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER AND OTHER DISASTER SITUATIONS, AND OF THE STATEMENT MADE TO THE SECOND COMMITTEE BY THE DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES OF HIS OFFICE,

NOTING IN PARTICULAR THE STATEMENTS IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT THAT, WHILE SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE IN ESTABLISHING ITS ASSIGNED FUNCTION OF MOBILIZING AND COORDINATING RELIEF, THE LACK OF STAFF AND FACILITIES, COMBINED WITH THE FREQUENCY, DURATION AND SIMULTANEITY OF DISASTER SITUATIONS, HAS SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OFFICE IN DISCHARGING THESE AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES,

CONCERNED THAT LACK OF ADEQUATE COORDINATION ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS RESULTS IN SOME CASES IN LAPSES IN MEETING PRIORITY NEEDS AND, IN OTHERS, IN COSTLY DUPLICATION AND IN THE SUPPLY OF UNNEEDED ASSISTANCE,

CONVINCED THAT THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION, GIVING ADEQUATE STAFF AND FACILITIES, TO PROVIDE A WORLD-WIDE SYSTEM OF MOBILIZING AND COORDINATING DISASTER RELIEF, INCLUDING THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DISASTER ASSESSMENT, PRIORITY NEEDS AND DONOR ASSISTANCE,

CONVINCED FURTHER THAT THIS CAPABILITY SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY AND URGENCY, AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE DISASTER PREVENTION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ROLES ASSIGNED TO THE DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR,

CONVINCED THAT DISASTER PREVENTION AND PRE-DISASTER PLANNING
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SHOULD FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY OF GOVERNMENTS AND OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,

1. CALLS UPON THE SECRETARY GENERAL, TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT STAFF, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE WORLD-WIDE SERVICE OF MOBILIZING AND COORDINATING DISASTER RELIEF, INCLUDING

PARTICULARLY THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
ON DISASTER ASSESSMENT, PRIORITY NEEDS AND DONOR ASSISTANCE;

2. DECIDES THAT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF PROVIDING THIS
STRENGTHENED CAPABILITY SHOULD BE MET BY VOLUNTARY
CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE FIRST YEAR, COMMENCING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
AND DURING THE 1976/77 BIENNIUM, AT WHICH TIME THE
METHOD OF FINANCING FOR SUCCEEDING PERIODS SHALL BE
SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE, WITH THE
UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PRESENT RESOLUTION SHOULD BE
CONCENTRATED ON STRENGTHENING THE COORDINATING CAPABILITY
OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF
COORDINATOR, BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY IMPROVEMENTS
THAT CAN BE MADE IN THAT OFFICE'S DISASTER PREVENTION AND
PRE-DISASTER PLANNING ROLES WITHIN THE RESOURCES OTHERWISE
AVAILABLE TO IT.

3. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TAKE APPROPRIATE
MEASURES, DRAWING UPON THE AFOREMENTIONED VOLUNTARY
FUNDS, TO PREPARE A PLAN AND BUDGET FOR THIS INCREASED
CAPABILITY, AND TO PROCEED WITH ITS IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION;

4. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AS CALLED FOR IN ECOSOC
RESOLUTION 1891 (LVII), TO CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE
FEASIBILITY OF MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE UN-MACHINERY
WITH REGARD TO DISASTER PREVENTION AND PRE-DISASTER PLANNING;

5. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE 59TH SESSION OF ECOSOC
AND TO THE 30TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. UNQUOTE:

2. DENMARK AND TURKEY, GIVING THIS LANGUAGE, ARE FIRM
CO SPONSORS. ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS
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TO CO-SPONSOR BUT NEED TO CHECK WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES IN
DELEGATIONS OR WITH CAPITALS.

3. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION NOON TOMORROW
(THURSDAY). WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S REACTION TO THIS DRAFT,
RECOGNIZING DEADLINE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN04577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740310-0553
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974101/aaaaaagm.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 29TH GA: SECOND COMMITTEE - ITEM 60 (A), DISASTER RELIEF
TAGS: EGEN, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005